

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE FOR RITA AND STEVEN JEROME

HON. MAX ROSE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring two of my constituents—siblings Rita and Steven Jerome. Their family represents the best that Staten Island has to offer, and now they are continuing their family's legacy of service, not just their fellow Staten Islanders, but the entire country.

On Staten Island, a passion for public service is part of our DNA, and the Jerome family is the perfect example of that. Rita and Steven's father serves as a NYPD lieutenant and their uncle is a pastor. Their paternal grandfather acted as a judge in the New York State Compensation Board and "in 1978 single-handedly apprehended a man threatening to blow up his courtroom in the World Trade Center." Now, Rita and Steven are choosing to follow in those family footsteps by joining the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academies (USMMA), respectively.

Rita isn't just any Air Force Academy cadet, she's making history as part of an increasing percentage of women serving in the Air Force. According to the USAFA Admissions Office, Rita, who is majoring in astronautical engineering, is among the 28.2 percent of women in the Class of 2023. She is also the first alumna from her high school along with the first Staten Island women to be admitted to the USAFA.

Her brother, Steven, recently completed a rigorous regime of academic, military, and physical training at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy after his graduation from Monsignor Farrell High School. Steven, who is earning a four-year degree in maritime logistics and security, will be completing almost three years of classes along with spending a year at sea away from his family.

As Rita and Steven embark on their new careers in service, I know that their entire family will be right there with them.

So, Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in commending Rita, Steven, and the entire Jerome family for the sacrifices they have made, and will continue to make for our nation.

MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE HISPANIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, Modesto Junior College (MJC)'s thirty-sixth annual Hispanic Education Conference wel-

comes students from across the Central Valley. This conference celebrates the achievements of Latinx education while exploring the amazing opportunities available to students in the Central Valley. This conference is a time for current students to explore their educational and career paths, and for prospective students to see the best of what Modesto Junior College has to offer.

A tradition started in 1984 by Dean Juan Alvarez and the Modesto Hispanic Leadership Council lives on today as the largest youth conference in the Central Valley. It serves our Central Valley community and promotes enrichment and success in higher education. Its workshops and lectures have inspired many generations of high school students, and are sure to inspire another generation to come. With a student body that's 52 percent Hispanic, Modesto Junior College is one of California's premier Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and no event better celebrates this impressive status than the Hispanic Education Conference.

I am proud to have taught at MJC, and I am proud to dedicate this record to an event that recognizes the opportunity and possibility offered by higher education, the dedication and creativity of its students and faculty, and Latinx achievement in the Central Valley. I'm also proud to recognize the Legacy Award recipient, whose contributions to making this event a reality and a success have been immeasurable. I'm happy to be part of this tradition that's more than three decades old, and I know I can look forward to more successful conferences in the years to come.

HONORING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF SMITH CHAPEL AME CHURCH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Smith Chapel AME Church, a house of worship located in Inkster, Michigan, on the occasion of its ninety-fifth anniversary service.

Smith Chapel AME Church held its first service on October 5, 1924 when a small, but passionate group of people gathered together to worship. Drawn together under the shared value of creating a caring community, the congregation quickly grew in size and influence. Though the church has witnessed many changes over the years, the congregation continues to gather regularly to nourish the spirit, mind, and body and give back to the surrounding community. In recent years, Smith Chapel has expanded its food pantry program to include a community garden, which is tended by church members, as well as its Summer Youth Café program that offers recreational and character development programs for young people. Whether gathering in prayer, celebrating love in marriage, or marking the

passing of a dear friend and loved one from this life, we all draw great strength from sharing with one another through faith. The history of Smith Chapel AME provides a wonderful example of how much this faith and unselfishness mean to our entire community.

Please join me in recognizing Smith Chapel AME on this milestone as we wish them well in the years to come.

IN MEMORY OF DR. CORNELIUS W. GRANT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a strategic thinker, a great motivational speaker, an excellent entrepreneur, a man of God, a friend of longstanding, and my fraternity brother, Dr. Cornelius W. Grant. Sadly, Dr. Grant passed away on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Georgia. His homegoing service was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. His passing leaves a tremendous void in the lives of his family, friends, and the countless students he mentored as the Vice President of Student Affairs at Albany State College (now University) and those he touched in his many other endeavors.

Dr. Cornelius "C.W." Grant, also affectionately known as "Dean Grant", was born on February 10, 1931, to the union of the late Reverend Everett Grant and Mrs. Elberta Clark Grant. He was a product of the public-school system in Jacksonville, Florida, graduating from Stanton High School. The next step of his life's journey took him to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). He took a brief respite from FAMU to serve our country in the United States Army. After a successful tour of duty, he returned to FAMU and earned his Juris Doctorate Degree. He began his career at Albany State College in 1966 as the Vice President for Student Affairs where he retired in 1996 after an incredible 30-year career.

Because of the solid spiritual foundation that was instilled in him at an early age by his parents, he enjoyed a strong relationship with God. He was an active member of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia for many years, serving under the leadership of Dr. E. James Grant and Dr. Daniel B. Simmons. In later years, he continued his walk with the Lord at Second Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany under the leadership of Dr. Theodus Drake. God indeed ordered the steps of his life.

He was highly sought-after as a public speaker, lecturer, and consultant. Dr. Grant gave many speeches all across the country. He always left a mark and very often ended his speeches with his legendary phrase, "If it is to be, it is up to me!"

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Dr. Grant was armed with a servant's heart and gave of himself in selfless service to many local, state, and national organizations to include: The National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP); the American Association of Law Librarians; the Benevolent Elks; the Pinochle Club; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Delta Delta Chapter); The Boys and Girls Clubs of Albany; Albany Civil Rights Institute; the American Red Cross; The Dougherty County School Board; and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Dr. Grant was a leader and not a follower. He served as President of the Albany Civil Rights Institute Board of Directors, Chairman of the Dougherty School Board and also served as President of NASAP. Dr. Grant was also a trailblazer and a history maker. As a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc., he holds the distinction of being one of only six members of the fraternity bestowed with both the Elder Watson Diggs Award and the Laurel Wreath, the highest awards given by the fraternity. He also served as the 16th Southeastern Province Polemarch.

Dr. Grant was a man who exuded confidence. He was indeed an original. He made those with whom he came in contact believe that they could accomplish any task. Dr. Grant's life was truly lived in the words of George Bernard Shaw when he said, "Some people see things as they are and they say why, I dream things that never were, and I say why not?" Dr. Grant lived his life with a "Why Not?" philosophy.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his family, his late wife, Dr. Velma Fudge Grant, who was a long time professor of English and Language Arts; his two daughters, Cheryl Lawson and Joi Grady; his grandchildren; godsons; and companion, Judge Denise Marshall.

On a personal note, Dr. Grant was my friend and my fraternity brother in both Kappa Alpha Psi and Sigma Pi Phi. He was always encouraging and supportive of my career in Congress and I will indeed miss his candid and cogent advice and counsel.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, and the countless others who were touched by this great man, would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Grant family. We are proud to have known a man who dedicated his life to the uplift of others. To God be the Glory for the life and legacy of Dr. Cornelius W. Grant.

REMEMBERING ENRIQUE FERNÁNDEZ TOLEDO

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Enrique Fernández Toledo, who sadly passed in late September. Those of us in the Puerto Rican community—on both the mainland and the Island—will remember Enrique as a tireless champion for the Puerto Rican people. He was also a loving husband, a father and, to me, personally, a dear friend.

Enrique began working in Congress in 1993 as a staffer for my former colleague, Rep. Luis Gutiérrez. During Enrique's two decades working for Congress, he fought for fairness and

greater economic security for Puerto Rico's most vulnerable. His unwavering commitment to justice and thoughtful insight earned him the senior position of deputy chief of staff. Over the decades, I came to rely on Enrique's vision and wisdom on a range of issues and he provided invaluable guidance and perspective to many Members of Congress in all Puerto Rico-related discussions on Capitol Hill.

Following Enrique's service on Capitol Hill, he continued amplifying the voice of millions of Puerto Ricans. In 2018, Enrique joined the Center for American Progress (CAP) as the director of relief and economic development policy for Puerto Rico. There, he was critical to Puerto Rico's ability to access relief and assistance after Hurricane Maria and recover from years of economic malaise.

At this time, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Enrique Fernández Toledo. May he always be remembered for his kindness, indefatigable spirit and the millions of lives he positively affected in Puerto Rico, Chicago and elsewhere. I pray his wife, Mayra; three children, Enrique Jr., Carlos, and Mayrita; and all who knew and loved him, draw strength and peace from his manifold contributions.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF GENERAL GEORGE A. BUSKIRK

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration and remembrance of General George A. Buskirk, former Adjutant of the Indiana National Guard, who passed away on October 8, 2019.

Born in 1949 in Indianapolis to George and Mary (Carriger) Buskirk, General Buskirk committed his life to serving his fellow Hoosiers and defending the country he loved. His long record of public service is testament to his dedication to our country.

General Buskirk received his business degree from Butler University, as well as a law degree from Indiana University. He enlisted in the Indiana National Guard in January 1978, where he was appointed as First Lieutenant. Throughout a distinguished military career that spanned four decades, General Buskirk served in a variety of roles, including Defense Counsel, Staff Judge Advocate, Brigade Judge Advocate, Assistant Adjutant General and Adjutant General. Outside of his military career, General Buskirk had an esteemed legal career which included his admittance as a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of Indiana as well as his tenure as the President of the Indianapolis Bar Association.

He will also be remembered for his devoted service to our community. General Buskirk served as National Treasurer for the American Legion for more than two decades, President of the Indiana War Memorial Commission, and he was on the Indiana State Armory Board. In addition, he served as Chairman of the Board of Saint Mary of the Woods College in Terra Haute, Indiana and he was a member of the Ivy Tech Foundation Board of Trustees. In 2016, he was appointed to the Indianapolis Board of Public Health and Safety by Mayor Joseph Hogsett.

I am also particularly honored that General Buskirk served on my Service Academy Committee, where for many years he helped me nominate bright young students in our community to the U.S. Armed Forces' storied institutions of higher learning.

General Buskirk lived an honorable life of service to our community and our country, and he will be greatly missed. I send my deepest condolences to his loved ones.

THE MAN WHO SAVED MANKIND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, South Carolina is fortunate to have Mark Powell as a columnist for the Lexington County Chronicle to highlight unique facts of history. On October 10th, he recognized "The man who saved mankind".

An elderly Russian man was quietly laid to rest outside Moscow last spring. No crowd mourned him. No news articles reported his passing. Yet, if you're age 36 or older, you are alive to read this because of him. And you've never even heard his name.

This is what happened the night Stanislav Petrov saved the world.

It all started in the late 1970s. The United States and the Soviet Union faced off in the Cold War. President Jimmy Carter's foreign policy vacillated between sometimes talking tough, sometimes going out of its way to accommodate the Soviets. Moscow smelled weakness.

So the Soviets deployed their new SS-20 nuclear missiles. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) upped the ante by announcing it would deploy its powerful Pershing II missiles in Western Europe by 1983 in response.

Suddenly, it felt like we were living in Armageddon's shadow. If you are of a certain age, you'll remember massive anti-nuclear war rallies in the northeast U.S. and Europe, some attracting hundreds of thousands of protestors. A TV movie about a post-nuclear attack called *The Day After* got huge ratings. Rock music songs that played on nuclear fears such as *The Final Countdown*, *It's A Mistake*, and *99 Red Balloons* were big hits. People were on edge.

Which brings us to September 1983. Early that month, the USSR shot down an unarmed Korean Air Lines jetliner over Soviet airspace, killing all 239 people onboard—including an American congressman from Georgia. East-West relations were indeed tense.

At that precise moment Stanislav Petrov unknowingly entered the world stage.

A 44 year-old Air Force lieutenant colonel and father of two, he served in the Soviet's prestigious Air Defense Forces. He was part of the elite team that monitored the Russians' satellites which, in turn, kept an eye out for nuclear missile launches by the U.S. via a spiffy new state-of-the-art computerized system.

Petrov worked the overnight shift. Early on the morning of September 26, the unthinkable happened. "The siren howled," he recalled in a 2013 interview. "I just sat there for a few seconds, staring at the big, backlit, red screen with the word 'launch' on it."

But something wasn't right. The system showed five missiles heading for the Soviet Union. Petrov's training had indicated that if a nuclear strike came, dozens of warheads would rain down on Russia, not just five.

What was going on? Time wasn't on Petrov's side. Every minute he spent trying to figure it out was a minute weapons might be speeding toward his sleeping homeland.

And nobody in the entire Soviet Union was aware of it—except Stanislav Petrov. His standing order was to immediately notify the Kremlin's big brass in such an emergency. His gut instinct told him to wait. As he was making up his mind, the word "launch" flashed in his face.

In the end, he didn't notify his superiors as protocol required. Had he done so, they likely would have ordered a massive retaliatory strike on the United States, very probably ending life as we know it. Instead, he waited. "Twenty-three minutes later I realized that nothing had happened," he said. "If there had been a real strike, then I would already know about it. It was such a relief."

It was the closest the world had come to an actual nuclear conflict since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

It turned out Petrov's instinct was right. The computer system had malfunctioned. At first his superiors were pleased with his coolness amid the ultimate crisis. But the Soviets were world-class bureaucrats, and he was later reprimanded for not filling out the required paperwork while the crisis was underway. "I had a phone in one hand and the intercom in the other, and I don't have a third hand (for filling out forms)," he said.

Petrov eventually left the military to work for the very research institute that designed the faulty monitoring system. He suffered a mental breakdown due to the emotional trauma he had experienced, recovered, and eventually retired to tend to his wife during her final battle with cancer.

He was living alone when he died quietly at age 77 last May 19, such an obscure figure that news of his passing wasn't learned until just a few weeks ago.

"They were lucky it was me on shift that night," Stanislav Petrov once said. That's putting it mildly.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUROR PAY PARITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Juror Pay Parity Act to require that DC Superior Court jurors receive the same pay as federal jurors.

Currently, Superior Court jurors are paid \$40 per day, and, under the Home Rule Act, only the DC courts and Congress have the authority to increase Superior Court juror pay. My bill would require that Superior Court jurors receive the same pay as federal jurors.

In the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill, Congress increased federal juror pay to \$50 per day, the first increase to federal juror pay in 28 years. My bill would give Superior Court jurors the same pay.

Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Pub. L. 105–33), Congress took responsibility for paying for the DC courts and other state-like functions provide by DC. The DC courts, however, have always been under the control of Congress, even when they were funded by the District. The Home Rule Act prohibits the District government from enacting any law relating to Title 11 of the DC Code. Title 11 provides that the Board of Judges of the Superior Court sets juror pay, but that the pay may not exceed the pay of federal jurors. Therefore, this bill, or action by the DC courts, is necessary to increase Superior Court juror pay.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING FLOYD LOFTON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Floyd Lofton's service to our country during World War II and in celebration of his upcoming 100th Birthday.

Mr. Lofton was born in West Point, Mississippi on February 22, 1920. He joined the Army on December 5th, 1942 in Little Rock, AR. He was trained as a truck driver and qualified as a sharpshooter in riflery training.

During the war he was deployed to the Pacific Theater of operations and served in New Guinea. He spent 2 years, 2 months, and 13 days in theater on foreign soil. As a result of his service, Mr. Lofton was awarded the WWII Victory Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star.

Floyd Lofton is a true American Hero from the greatest generation. I invite Congress to join me in thanking Mr. Lofton for his service to this nation and the free world and in wishing him a happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JASBIR "GUDDI" KAUR SIDHU

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mrs. Jasbir "Guddi" Sidhu who tragically passed away on Sunday, October 6, 2019. Guddi will be remembered for her dedicated service to the Sikh community of Fresno, California.

Guddi lived an admirable life and made countless contributions to the city of Fresno. For 25 years, she had a weekly television show and was a founding member of KBIF 900, a local radio station. Her weekend program featured interviews with community members, cultural figures and well-known international songs. Her station was aired not only in Fresno, but also in India and streamed by thousands on social media.

Guddi was a well-known and well-respected leader in the Punjabi Sikh community. She was a member of numerous local groups and

worked hard to preserve the Punjabi culture and Sikh religion for children and families in the community. Guddi was a member of the Sikh Women's Organization for 15 years and was Vice President Sikh Institute of Fresno.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Jasbir "Guddi" Sidhu. She was a respected member in the community and had a passion for the people of the Central Valley.

HONORING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF MELVIN CURTIS WHITLOCK, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Melvin Curtis Whitlock, Jr.

Melvin Curtis Whitlock, Jr. was born on Saturday, June 8, 1957. He was the first born of Melvin Curtis Whitlock, Sr. and Mary Lean Johnson-Whitlock, or "Mary Lean" as she is most affectionately called. As engaged members of their community, Melvin Sr. and Mary Lean's high-spirited union was further harmonized by the joy and laughter Melvin would bring.

As he grew, Melvin became openly passionate and outgoing through his love of music and baseball. He became a member of the band and joined the baseball team during his trajectory at Jim Hill High School. Melvin had a love for motorcycles, percussion, The Temptations, Good Times, and Sanford & Son.

Following high school, Melvin attended Jackson State University. Upon leaving JSU, he married his high school sweetheart and started a family. From their union came three beautiful children which Melvin would tell everyone were his three greatest accomplishments.

Melvin received certification in masonry from Hinds Community College and spent time working with his father, Melvin Sr.

He was known for the phrase, "Y'all think y'all deserve everything on a silver platter", which encouraged his children and others to appreciate the value of earning whatever they wanted in life.

He was an outstanding, faithful member at his spiritual home, Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ until his passing on September 24, 2019.

Melvin is survived by his father: Melvin "M.C." Whitlock, Sr., mother: Mary Lean Whitlock, daughter: Niki Whitlock, grandsons: Tyler Nelson and Lance Jones, great granddaughters: BellaKay Jones and Emerson Jones, son: Brian M. Whitlock, son: Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr., grandchildren: Gerren Whitlock, II and Cayla Whitlock, brothers: James Whitlock and Marvin Whitlock, sisters: Sandra Moses, Joyce Whitlock, Debbie Whitlock, and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Melvin Whitlock, Jr.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures. If I were present for roll call votes, I would have voted "aye" for the following vote: Roll Call 540, September 20, 2019: On Passage of H.R. 1423, Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act.

In addition, I would have voted "no" on the following vote: Roll Call 539, September 20, 2019: On Agreeing to the Amendment by Jordan of Ohio Part B Amendment No. 1.

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
IN MARRAKECH**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, two weeks ago, I participated as Ranking Member with Co-Chairman Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS and Co-Chairman Senator ROGER WICKER of the Joint Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (The Helsinki Commission) to attend the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Marrakech, Morocco, with fellow Congressmen EMANUEL CLEAVER and ANDY HARRIS.

We were warmly welcomed to North Africa by President Mohamed Ennaceur of Tunisia in Tunis. We saw firsthand the vibrant democracy conducting parliamentary and presidential elections. America is ably represented by Ambassador David Blome and Deputy Chief of Mission Gregory LoGerfo. A wreath was placed at the North Africa American Cemetery where over 6,500 Americans are memorialized for liberating North Africa from Nazi occupation, escorted by Superintendent Ryan Blum.

In Jerusalem our dedicated U.S. Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman presented an update on the U.S.-Israeli alliance. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu enthusiastically reviewed the ever-evolving political situation. We were inspired with an audience with the Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos III. Director Ze'ev Orenstein gave an impressive tour of the archeological discoveries of The City of David Ancient Jerusalem.

Chief of Staff Alex Johnson provided well-researched briefing materials for the Assembly in Marrakech. Morocco is a valued Non-NATO Ally of America with a surging economy for the people led by King Mohammed VI.

With parliamentarians from 57 nations it was refreshing that opportunities were available for full participation with members respectful of time constraints led by Assembly President Gigi Tsereteli of Georgia with Secretary General Roberto Montella of Italy.

Co-Chairmen HASTINGS and WICKER hosted a special meeting with nine parliamentarians of different political parties from Ukraine who were appreciative of America's support of their independence. I was grateful to meet dynamic delegates from Andorra, Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, San Marino, Serbia, and Tajikistan.

I was fortunate to meet with Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso Alassane

Bala Sakande who is President of the African Parliamentary Union and Speaker Moustapha Cisse Lo of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) of Senegal.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th and the Global War on Terrorism, with the leadership of President Donald Trump.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY
OF MARIE EDITH MUSTILLO**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Marie Edith Mustillo, a woman of strength, honor and good humor, on her 90th Birthday.

Born on October 5, 1929 to John and Rose Perrello, Sicilian immigrants whose American dream was realized as they settled in Buffalo. The third of five children, Marie and her siblings grew up on Myrtle Avenue in Buffalo. She attended Public School 6 Grammar School and went on to the Girls Vocational High School. Cultural stigmas posed no threat to Marie Perrello as she studied business and took a position at Allstate Trucking where she wrote up manifests for the drivers. While employed there, it was not uncommon for a man to tell her that because she was a woman, she was in the wrong job. Marie proved it was those men who were wrong.

She then took her professional skills to W.H. Edgar and Son, a sugar company at the Clinton Market where she worked as a secretary. Marie moved from the market to a doctor's office as she became a trusted podiatry assistant for almost thirty years at the office of Dr. Herbert Shulefand.

As if out of a movie script, this lively, lovely young woman met the love of her life, Louis Mustillo, Sr., on New Year's Eve in 1950. Three years later they married. Always close to her family, married life would not change that as the happy couple lived upstairs from her parents before moving to Mineral Spring Road in 1956 because her grandmother lived on Hayden, the next street over. The Mustillo's finally planted their roots on Edgewood Avenue, in a home where Marie still lives today. At their new South Buffalo home, Marie and Louis, who would become known as Buffalo's most respected professional bartender, raised three beautiful children together: Concetta (Michael Myers), Louis Jr. (Tricia Brown), and Lisa (Mark Vary). Their children's careers in health care, the entertainment industry and social work continue to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

The Mustillo home, like others on Edgewood Avenue, became a gathering place for the families, children and many friends who found an open door, a warm welcome, an invite for dinner and when needed, a look that meant someone would be sent home for misbehaving. A few years ago, there was even a widely attended Edgewood Avenue reunion where neighbors of all generations, present and past, spent the evening reminiscing about the block parties, life-long friendships, shared celebrations and heartache that made Edgewood a very special place to raise a family.

And, Marie and Louis resided in the heart of that street and personified the values of fam-

ily, faith, friendship, hard work, giving back to one's community, pursuing your dreams, loyalty and love of country that they instilled in their children and grandchildren, Michael, Lisa and Concetta Marie. In true Marie Mustillo style, she soldiered on after the loss of her beloved husband in 1998 even comforting a neighbor getting married that day. Now the undisputed matriarch of the Mustillo clan, she is held in high regard by those who know her and love her and those she loves so well.

Her passion for gardening reflects her love of nature, the pride she takes in doing her own planting and then seeing her work come to life as she curates one of the most glorious presentations in the neighborhood. Its inclusion in the South Buffalo Garden Walk makes her home a true destination for residents and visitors alike. You are truly blessed, as I am, to be the recipient of one her aprons as one of Marie's favorite pastimes is sewing. Her handmade aprons have made appearances on national television programs including Mike and Molly, which starred her son Louis Jr. and are permanent fixtures in the wardrobe department at Warner Brothers Studios. These aprons have been gifted to New York State Governor Cuomo as well as several Parisian cafes.

A longtime, active parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas (STA) Church, it is appropriate that the color representing 90 years is purple, the same color highlighting so many STA banners over the years. Purple represents wisdom, dignity, independence and creativity; all innate qualities found in the fiber and fabric of Marie Mustillo.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for this time to acknowledge Marie Edith Perrello Mustillo who for 90 years has graced the lives of her family she loves and the friends she cherishes as she built relationships that have lasted a lifetime. We send congratulations and best wishes for continued health and happiness as this beloved wife, devoted mother, caring grandparent, generous friend, honorary Edgewood Eagle and South Buffalo Legend will be celebrated at Chef's Restaurant on the date of her birth, October 5.

TRIBUTE TO EMILIO NICOLAS

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Emilio Nicolas who passed away on October 12, 2019. Mr. Nicolas hails from my hometown of San Antonio, Texas. For decades he led the way in providing a voice for Mexican Americans through Spanish-language television. He is survived by his wife Irma, one sister, three children, five grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

Emilio Nicolas was born on October 27, 1930 to Mr. and Mrs. Constantino Nicolas in Frontera, Coahuila, Mexico. In 1948, he moved to San Antonio to study chemistry and mathematics at St. Mary's University; graduating in 1951. Later, he received a master's degree from Trinity University in 1952.

In 1955, Emilio Nicolas came to work at KCOR-AM & TV in San Antonio where he produced live programming and television.

Nicolas and investors later purchased KCOR, renaming it KWEX; precursor to Univision. The fourth Television Network, Univision became a major media company catering to Spanish speaking audiences across Texas and the United States.

Emilio Nicolas was known for his commitment to community and family. His work has given a voice to so many Hispanic Americans on a massive, global scale. But he also never forgot the community that made him, and in turn, we can never forget him.

Madam Speaker, we have lost a pioneer whose story and work inspired so many in our community. He's remembered in our words, in our heritage, and most importantly, in all the stories of Hispanic Americans raising their voices because of the road he paved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I was absent September 18 through 20, 2019 due to a knee injury that inhibited travel to Washington, D.C. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" for H.R. 4378, Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes, and "no" for H.R. 1423, Forced Arbitration Injustice.

I was absent September 24 through 27, 2019 due to a knee injury that inhibited travel to Washington, D.C. Had I been present, I would have voted: "no" on H.R. 2203, Homeland Security Improvement Act; "no" on Democrat Motion to Table the Question of the Privileges of the House, stating: That the House of Representatives disapproves of the actions of the Speaker of the House, Mrs. PELOSI of California, to initiate an impeachment inquiry against the duly elected President of the United States, Donald J. Trump; "yes" on H. Res. 576, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the whistleblower complaint of August 12, 2019, made to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community; "no" on H.R. 3525, U.S. Border Patrol Medical Screening Standards Act; "no" on S.J. Res. 54, Relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019; and "no" on Democrat Motion to Table the Question of the Privileges of the House, stating: That the House of Representatives disapproves of the actions of the Speaker of the House, Mrs. PELOSI of California, to initiate an impeachment inquiry

against the duly elected President of the United States, Donald J. Trump.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S BREWERS

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate our country's brewers.

This week, some of America's 7,000 beer brewers and importers are in our nation's capital as part of the Beer Institute's beer jobs showcase. They are meeting with lawmakers to discuss how they're creating more than 2.1 million good-paying jobs and generating \$328 billion in economic activity.

One beer job contributes to 31 more in a wide range of industries, including farming, manufacturing, trucking and restaurants.

Every congressional district is home to a brewery. My home state of Pennsylvania has a rich history with brewing that dates all the way back to the 1600s. Currently, we have more than 500 breweries that employ 77,000 people.

That's why I'm proud to have co-authored the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act with my friend and colleague Congressman RON KIND of Wisconsin. Today, H.R. 1175 has 288 cosponsors.

Our bipartisan bill would provide permanent federal excise tax relief to America's brewers and beer importers, ensuring they have the resources to reinvest in their businesses, hire new employees and continue to innovate. The federal excise tax cut was enacted in 2017, but it is set to expire at the end of the year. By extending this tax relief, brewers can continue to invest, produce and create America's favorite beers.

Brewers across our nation exemplify the American dream and our country's spirit of entrepreneurship. As Americans, let's raise a glass to our beer-making heritage.

RECOGNIZING VIERA SUNTREE LITTLE LEAGUE'S ACCOMPLISH- MENTS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize two exceptional and accomplished

baseball teams from Florida's eighth congressional district for their recent championship wins. The Viera Suntree Little League sent both their Juniors and Majors All-Stars baseball teams to compete in the state championships, bringing home two stunning victories. Not only did both teams win state championships, but the Juniors team went on to play in the Little League World Series where only 16 teams in the entire country are selected to compete. There the Juniors team placed second in the U.S. bracket and fourth in the World, finishing with a 15 and 2 overall record. The magnitude of both teams' accomplishments cannot be understated. Their dedication to excellence in the sport of baseball is evident in this achievement.

I would like to also mention that this is not the first time that Viera Suntree All-Stars teams have competed for championships. They received their first Majors division state championship in 2010. These teams consistently compete at high levels and voluntarily dedicate themselves to countless hours of practice and playing games.

I am incredibly grateful to have such outstanding young men and their coaches represent our district on the national stage. I would like to extend a special congratulations to Manager Jason Allen, Coaches John Glendinning and Dustin Keith, and players Aaron Brand, Luke Campbell, Lucas Glendinning, Apollos Horrell, Luc Iten, Dylan Jordan, Logan Keith, Luke McDonough, Cameron Ruston, Cameron Simpkins, Cole Smith, Blake Strode, Brycen Weeks, and Camden Wicker of the Juniors team.

I would also like to congratulate Manager Russell Cheatham, Coaches Raul Leoni, Clint Marshall, and players Izzy Birru, Robbie Caruso, Micah Cheatham, Brennan Confreda, Finnegan Goldiner, Dominic Leoni, Evan Lipski, Austin Marshall, Colton Marshall, Deaglan McBride, Mikey Minarik, Jonah Peacock, and Brandon Reiter of the Majors team.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of both the Juniors and Majors All-Star teams and I look forward to seeing what they can achieve next year.